

SENATE No. 811

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan C. Fargo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish community based grant programs to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex
Byron Rushing	9th Suffolk
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Benjamin Swan	11th Hampden
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
William Lantigua	16th Essex
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex
Mark C. Montigny	Second Bristol and Plymouth
Benjamin Swan	11th Hampden

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY BASED GRANT PROGRAMS TO ELIMINATE RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 111N of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

Section 7. (a) The office shall, subject to appropriation, administer a community-based agency disparities reduction grant program. The grants shall support efforts by community-based agencies to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities among predominantly underserved populations, including efforts addressing social factors integral to such disparities. Grants shall be awarded following a competitive application process. In awarding grants, the office shall give priority to programs replicable by other community-based agencies. Grants shall be provided to a broad range of agencies that support diverse communities throughout the state. No community-based agency may receive more than one grant concurrently. All grants shall include an evaluation component.

(b) The program shall provide grants to community-based agencies and non-profit community organizations to address key disparities issues including but not limited to: the social

14 and economic barriers that impact health outcomes, the development of a diverse healthcare
15 workforce across wide range of healthcare professions, increasing the access, utilization and
16 quality of healthcare services, and supporting community health workers to facilitate the use of
17 health and human services

18 (c) For the purposes of this section, a “community-based agency” shall include agencies
19 that provide direct services, education, or support to underserved populations, including
20 community health centers and hospitals, social service organizations, community nonprofit
21 organizations, educational institutions, faith based organizations and other non-governmental
22 agencies and other organizations as defined by the office.